



QAGAN TAYAGUNGIN TRIBE
P.O. BOX 447
SAND POINT, ALASKA 99661
PHONE (907) 383-5616
FAX (907) 383-5814

December 18, 2014

Representative Don Young
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Young,

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe of Sand Point is a federally recognized tribe in rural Alaska, located in the Shumagin Islands, off the Alaska Peninsula. On December 10, 2014 we received an email from the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council encouraging tribes to support the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) nomination of an Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary to the National Ocean & Atmospheric Administration for consideration.

This proposed marine sanctuary is unwanted and unnecessary, and would endanger our economy, our livelihood, and likely result in a mass exodus of the region as people struggle to find a place where they can make a living and survive. This would be detrimental to our cultures, our identities, and our family units.

We, the Aleuts of this region, are Stewards of our land. We have lived here for thousands of years, and understand the delicate balance of living off the land in a sustainable manner, and protecting it for future generations. This understanding is precisely why the people of our region work closely with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and National Marine Fisheries Service to form regulations which will protect the marine environment for future generations. We do this to enable the Aleut people, and others who have come to call the Aleutians home, to build homes and raise our families here without depleting our resources in order for us to stay in the region we love.

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe staunchly opposes the establishment of an Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary. We feel it would not be good for our tribe, for our people, or for our region as a whole. We hope, as Alaska's Representative, you would support us in our opposition of this proposed Marine Sanctuary. If there is anything we at the tribe can do to help prevent this nomination from moving forward, please let us know.

Sincerely,

David O. Osterback
President